WO-233
Old Ebenezer Church
Whaleyville vicinity
private

c. 1880

The old Ebenezer Methodist church is a prominent site along MD Route 610, also known as Ebenezer Church Road. The plain single story story is dominated by a three-story entrance and bell story that is capped by a short broach spire. Inside the church is fitted with narrow beaded board wainscoting and an intricate diagonal board ceiling executed in sixteen grids. The altar and choir at the west end is raised and finished with narrow beaded board as well. To the north and west of the church is the cemetery, and standing behind the church is a single-story church hall.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: _Old Ebenezer Methodist Church_

MHT Inventory Number: _WI-233_

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

   Architecture, Religion

2) Geographic Orientation:

   Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

   1870 - 1930 Urban - Industrial Dominance

4) Resource Type(s):

   1. Standing Structure

      a. Church

   2. Object

      b. Cemetery

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common OLD EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

2. Location

street & number Northwest side of Ebenezer Church Road   ___ not for publication

city, town Bishopville   __X__ vicinity of   congressional district First

state Maryland   county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
_ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other: none

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Ebenezer Church

street & number   telephone no.:

city, town   state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court   liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse   folio

city, town Snow Hill   state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date   ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

repository for survey records

city, town   state

7. Description

Condition
____ excellent   _X_ deteriorated
____ good   ____ ruins
____ fair   ____ unexposed

Check one
____ unaltered
____ altered

Check one
_X_ original site
____ moved   date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Old Ebenezer church stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Ebenezer Church Road and Ebenezer Road in northern Worcester County in the vicinity of Whaleyville. The church faces east with the gable roof oriented on a east/west axis.

Built around 1880, the single-story, frame church is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation and sheathed with a uniform layer of weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dominating the gable front is a three-story entrance and bell tower. North and west of the church is a nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery as well as a single story frame church hall. Both buildings have been abandoned for some time.

The east (main) elevation is dominated by the three-story bell tower that is capped by a squat broach spire. Double six-panel doors are framed by a plain surround, and each of the tower is lighted by a single-pane sash window. The middle level is marked by diamond pane sash windows on each side, and the uppermost story is distinguished by paired Gothic arched louvered openings.

The north and south sides of the church are defined by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The eave is treated with a simple boxed cornice trimmed with a crown molding.

Extending from the west gable end wall is a short single story apse that is covered with a hip roof. Small single pane sash windows pierce the north and south sides. The eaves of the main block are extended with returns at the base.

The interior has been stripped of all church furniture. Despite the open condition of the church the interior has not been seriously vandalized. The vestibule walls and ceiling are trimmed with narrow beaded board, and the walls of the church are fitted with beaded board wainscoting. Highlighting the interior is a matched board ceiling executed in sixteen grids. Also unusual is the diagonal board floor. At the west end of the sanctuary is a raised altar and choir. The platforms are finished with narrow beaded board sheathing as well. Fixed on each side of the sanctuary are interior brick stacks that provided flues for stoves. Also significant are the period chandeliers which remain with paired bulbs.

Standing west of the church is a single-story, two-bay frame church hall that is supported by a continuous brick foundation and is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. Attached to the north end of the hall is a shed roof extension. The gable-front elevation faces the road with a center entrance. Two-over-two sash windows pierce the front and side walls. Rising through the north gable end is a narrow brick stove stack. The interior is finished with narrow beaded boards.

8. Significance

Period

___ prehistoric
_ 1400–1499
_ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
_x_ 1800–1899
___ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_X_ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications

___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
___ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention

___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
___ politics/government

_x_ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
___ social/
humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B _x_C __D
      and/or

      Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

      Level of Significance: __national __state _x_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

    The Old Ebenezer church is a prominent site along MD Route 610, also called Ebenezer Church Road, between Whaleyville and the Maryland-Delaware line. The plain single story church is dominated by a three-story entrance and bell tower that is capped by a short broad spire. Since the church has been abandoned, all the furniture has been removed. The interior walls and ceiling retain good examples of late nineteenth-century beaded board craftsmanship. The ceiling is executed in a sixteen panel grid, and the walls are trimmed with beaded board wainscoting. At the west end of the sanctuary is a raised altar and choir. A nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery remains to the back of the church as does a single story church hall.
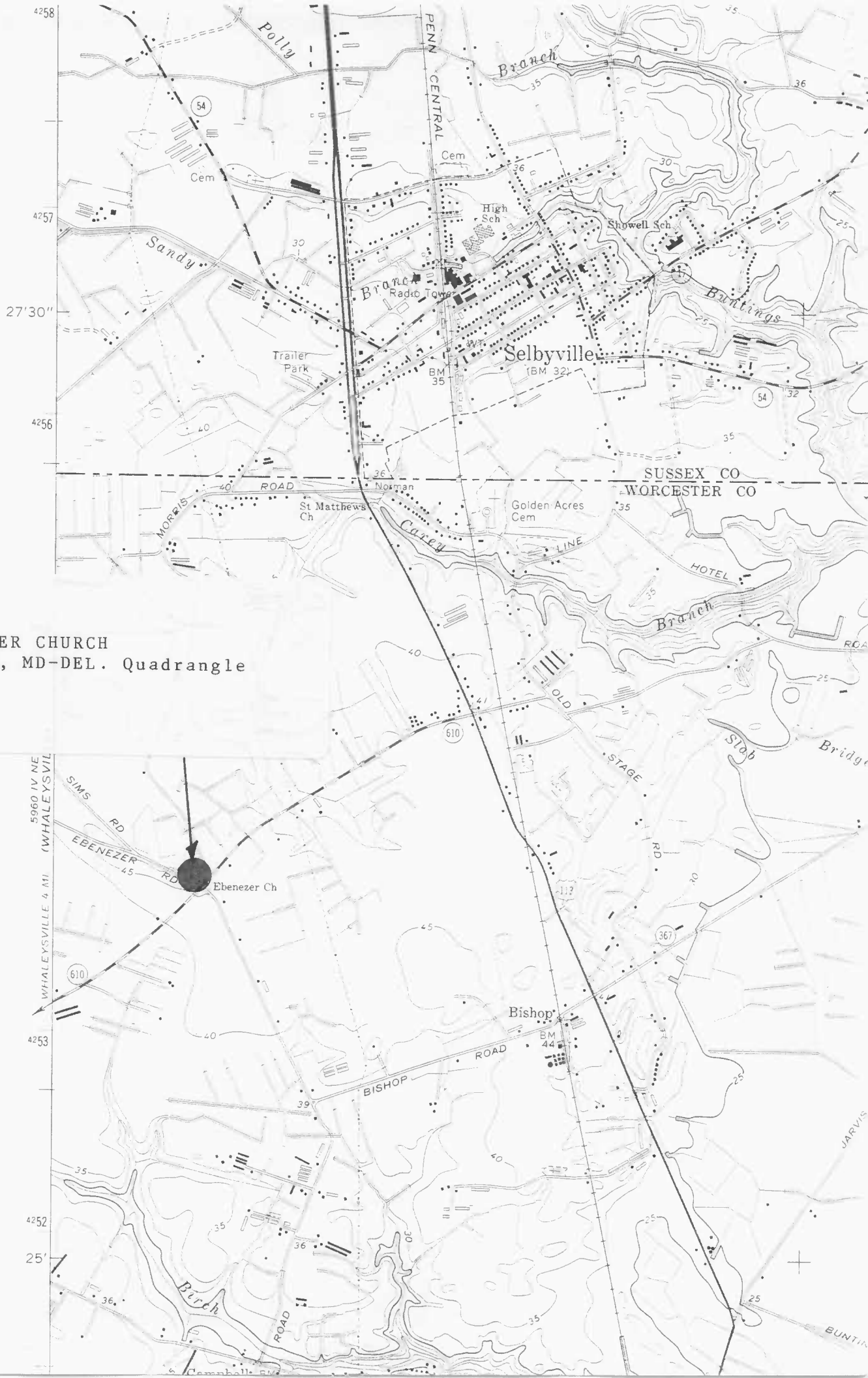
HISTORY AND SUPPORT

10. **Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____   **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM References   do NOT complete UTM references

A ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋   B ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋
  Zone Easting   Northing   Zone Easting   Northing

C ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋   D ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋

E ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋   F ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋

G ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋   H ⌊⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋ ⌊⎵⎵⎵⎵⌋

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. **Form Prepared By**

name/title	Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian
organization	Worcester County **date** 3/28/88
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse **telephone** (301) 632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill **state** MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
             Shaw House
             21 State Circle
             Annapolis, Maryland 21401
             (301) 269-2438

ST. MARTINS

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WORCESTER CO.

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas (handwritten)

No-233 (handwritten)

BISHOPVILLE

CAMPBELLTOWN

WORCESTER

St. Martins River

ASSAWOMAN BAY

Gum's Creek

ISLE of WIGHT

ISLE OF WIGHT BAY

WO-233
OLD EBENEZER CHURCH
Selbyville, MD-DEL. Quadrangle
1967